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## WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 2 January 1971

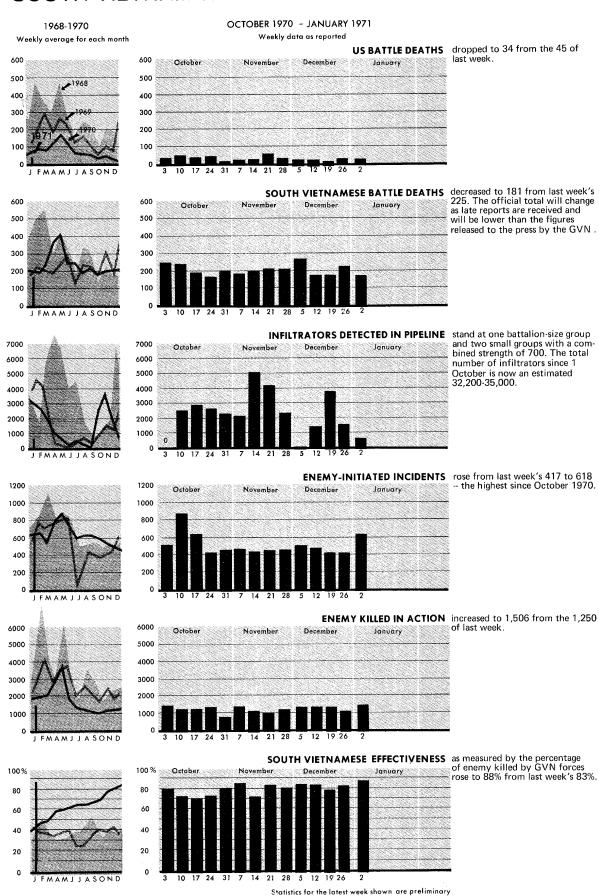
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## SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS



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## Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated activity in South Vietnam during the week generally remained at a low level, although on 2 January an ARVN unit operating in the southern portion of the DMZ came under heavy mortar and artillery fire, some of which almost certainly came from guns emplaced in North Vietnam. In Laos, military activity was at a low level until 1 January, when the enemy overran four government positions northwest of Ban Ban further hindering friendly operations against the logistics complex in that area. On the same date, the enemy also took Sites 23, 40, and 42 on the Bolovens Plateau. Enemy activity in Laos for the remainder of the dry season (approximately four months) is likely to be fairly heavy as the enemy attempts to expand the area under his control and protect his lines of communication through the Panhandle. In Cambodia, government forces are making little headway in their efforts to clear Route 4; Communist resistance to these efforts has been stiff and, so far, effective. In the Kompong Cham area, although Route 7 is still open, friendly forces are subjected to continuing Communist harassment and unless FANK acts more aggressively, at least portions of this route may once again fall under enemy control.

## Enemy Infiltration

One battalion-size and two small infiltration groups with a combined strength of some 700 were detected moving southward during the week. No southbound groups have been detected as yet for January. However, an intercepted message indicates that for the first five days of January one group per day, with a strength of 600, will begin moving from the Vinh area westward to the Cho Si Railroad Station, which in the past has been a center for troop movements into northern Laos. The possibility exists that this movement may involve elements of the 312th NVA Division which have been in the Vinh area for some time. The 312th Division was deployed into north Laos last year and the Vinh area moves noted to date are the sort of moves that would be expected if the 312th was being readied for movement back into north Laos during this campaign season. Since 1 October, the total number of South Vietnam/Cambodia bound infilt tors stands at an estimated 32,200 - 35,000. The enemy continues the accelerated movement of supplies southward through the Laos Panhandle.

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